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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

ELLEN DONESKI, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRIAN M. HENDRICKS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL

0897

July 18, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to urge you to immediately begin a proceeding to make sure all consumers have access to mobile devices operating on the next-generation networks that use 700 MHz spectrum.

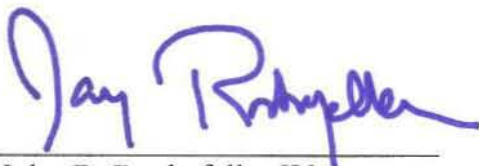
Without action, we are concerned that the wireless market may develop in ways that are contrary to the public interest. First, without interoperability across band classes, some consumers will not have access to the cutting-edge devices being developed to take advantage of the benefits of the next-generation 700 MHz networks. If these new devices work only on certain networks, consumers using other carriers may be saddled with less innovative devices.

Second, if these devices do not work across networks, consumers and public safety users who travel may not be able to roam on other networks and could be left stranded without service. Some first responders may be unable to use their wireless devices in emergencies if the devices are not interoperable with the available commercial networks.

We commend the Commission for beginning to tackle these issues through a recent staff workshop. But we have reached a pivotal point in the development of the 700 MHz networks, and the Commission should take additional action to protect consumers. We

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
July 18, 2011
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encourage you to identify the most suitable means to ensure devices being designed for the 700 MHz band can, as swiftly as possible and to the extent technically feasible, benefit all consumers.

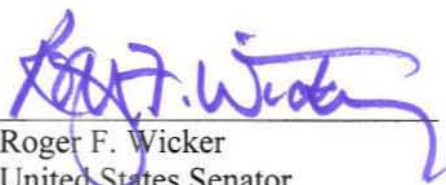


John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Mark P. Begich
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to begin a proceeding to ensure that all consumers have access to mobile devices that use the 700 MHz Band. We are in complete agreement on the need for all consumers to have access to cutting-edge and innovative devices that take advantage of the benefits of next-generation technology, no matter which service provider they choose.

The Commission is evaluating its next steps on interoperability issues and the availability of mobile devices in the 700 MHz Band. As you note, the Commission recently held a public workshop on the interoperability of customer mobile equipment across commercial spectrum blocks in the 700 MHz Band. This workshop generated valuable insights on these matters. In addition, to gain a better understanding of interference and other technical issues involved with 700 MHz interoperability, the Chief Engineer from the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has been attending meetings of the industry standards setting bodies where the relevant technical standards are being considered and adopted. I will keep you and your staff informed as the Commission continues its efforts to advance access to wireless broadband in this country, which will stimulate innovation, economic growth, and job creation..

I appreciate this opportunity to hear your thoughts on this critically important matter. I look forward to continuing our work to ensure that all Americans benefit from the power of mobile broadband and new and innovative technologies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Julius Genachowski is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is in black ink and is stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mark Begich
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Begich:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to begin a proceeding to ensure that all consumers have access to mobile devices that use the 700 MHz Band. We are in complete agreement on the need for all consumers to have access to cutting-edge and innovative devices that take advantage of the benefits of next-generation technology, no matter which service provider they choose.

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Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to begin a proceeding to ensure that all consumers have access to mobile devices that use the 700 MHz Band. We are in complete agreement on the need for all consumers to have access to cutting-edge and innovative devices that take advantage of the benefits of next-generation technology, no matter which service provider they choose.

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Julius Genachowski